

House protests Islamic resolution

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of 42 members of the Lower House of Parliament Monday issued a statement criticising the final communiqué passed by the Islamic summit conference in Dakar earlier this month for excluding a clause calling for jihad (holy war). "By cancelling the clause, the communiqué is regarded as an interference in the faith of the Islamic Nation because no one has the right to cancel any of Islam's basic duties," the statement said. The signatories declared their total rejection and condemnation of the summit's resolution, reaffirming the belief in what they said "divine right" for Muslims to wage jihad. "Jihad is the right of the Muslims," the statement said. The deputies said that the exclusion of the call for jihad ran contrary to the 1981 Mecca declaration, and they urged Arab and Islamic governments to denounce the Dakar resolutions. Copies of the statement were sent to the Organisation of Islamic Conference secretariat, the Arab and Islamic parliamentary unions and the World Islamic League.

Jordan Times

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AMMAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1991, JUMADEH AL AKHRA 11, 1412

Jordan appeals to world to help Iraqis

AMMAN (R) — King Hussein made an emotional appeal Monday for action to relieve the suffering of the Iraqi people under U.N. sanctions. "I hope there will be a time very soon that the needs of the Iraqi people will be addressed on a humanitarian level in a manner that is compatible to people's needs," the King said in a joint interview with Reuters and the international television agency Visnews. "Men, women and children... their cause must be addressed. One cannot look the other way at their suffering," the King said, emphasising that he was talking of the ordinary people and not the ruling elite. "I believe this problem can't continue." Jordan is the main conduit for Iraqi imports of food and humanitarian supplies, and is subject to the U.N. embargo. It has been granted special dispensation by the U.N. Sanctions Committee to import Iraqi oil and oil products. The United States has said sanctions cannot be lifted while President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Israeli refusal to budge keeps talks bogged down

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters
in Washington

HAVING RECESSED for a long weekend, Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations resumed with the issue of independent Palestinian representation again dominating talks. But after their first session Monday the parties did not appear closer to agreement.

The heads of the Jordanian and Palestinian teams met for two hours with their Israeli counterpart, Eliyakim Rubenstein, in the corridor of the official site at the State Department, only to discuss proposals and counterproposals on how to solve the impasse over Palestinian representation in the talks.

The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations started off by submitting two proposals, or options as

some Arab delegates preferred to call them, to ensure independent Palestinian representation without giving an excuse to the Israelis to further hold up progress in the talks.

The Israelis, in effect, rejected the proposals by submitting a counter proposal that apparently was not much different from earlier Israeli proposals which tried to water down the Palestinian identity and preventing the Palestinian representatives from playing their full role in negotiating their own agenda, according to Arab delegates.

"We are about to begin study of the Israeli counter proposal," a Jordanian delegate said, upon the delegation's return from the morning session. "There will be a meeting to study it before going back to the State Department for the afternoon session (at 4:30 p.m. Washington time)," he said.

The Israelis are not adopting a

positive attitude, he said, adding that the evening talks will be the "last chance" to avoid a deadlock.

Mr. Rubenstein contended his delegation was the one offering all the peace proposals. Commenting on Dr. Abdul Shafiq's statement about the "last chance," he said this is the Palestinian view adding that he did not want to continue the dialogue through the media.

He did not explain what he meant by talking through the media, but sources close to the Israeli delegation said he probably was referring to the fact that news of the two-Jordanian-Palestinian proposals reached the press while the meeting was still taking place.

Dr. Abdul Shafiq, asked what do the Palestinians and Jordanians would do if they felt progress was impossible, said, "Maybe we need the efforts of the sponsors."

The United States, the main co-sponsor, has kept its distance from the talks, saying it is up to the

negotiators to solve their own problems.

Mr. Rubenstein, however, denied a deadlock was imminent.

"We will continue negotiating directly," he said. "There's no question of deadlocking or anything of this kind."

Mr. Rubenstein said Israel's new idea "could instantly resolve what needs to be resolved and (enable us) to go into the room and negotiate."

As the peace talks resumed on Monday, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told reporters the Palestinians would suggest "to have just the three heads of delegations meet in the meeting room and work out two consecutive meetings today — one Israeli-Palestinian and one Israeli-Jordanian."

The aim was "to get down to substance and not to get entangled in issues of disagreement," she added.

Dr. Ashrawi described the proposal as "the short-cut — the high road."

If Israel wanted to tackle difficult

issues, the Palestinians were willing to do so, again through a meeting of the three delegation leaders.

"We want...

to break the impasse

of corridor diplomacy, to sit down

and overcome the procedural issues," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Dr. Ashrawi criticised the United States for staying out of the dispute last week but said she expected that to change.

"The U.S. side, and the Israeli

side, have fallen under the pressure of time. It seems the United States will start a process in which it plays a more positive and more constructive role than it was playing," she said.

Israeli spokesman Benjamin

Netanyahu accused the Palestinians of raising impossible issues in an attempt to wreck the talks and drag the United States in as mediator.

"This has not been a good day for peace," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu, deputy to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, cited what he called "a marked escalation of

the two tracks, but stipulated that the joint delegation could meet to discuss procedural issues only with the mutual consent of Arabs and Israelis.

According to this proposal, leaders of the delegations could meet at any time to discuss whatever issues that need to be discussed.

"We do have a detailed proposal that talks about mechanisms and talks about further work and coordination among the three parties on the basis of the two track approach," Dr. Ashrawi said. "But we feel if we start discussing all these procedural issues, then it is going to take a long time to get to the substance," she added in answer to a question on why two proposals were offered.

The Israelis reject the joint delegation formula for convening the joint meeting and want the joint delegation to meet upon a party's request. They also insist on reducing the number of delegates in the two tracks.

(Continued on page 5)

King: No retraction from two-track peace talks

Jordan will consider moving venue but not now
Little headway in efforts for Arab reconciliation

By Rana Sabagh
Reuter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday Jordan insisted on a two-track approach in Middle East peace talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation held up in Washington over procedure.

"I believe our position is very, very clear," King Hussein said in an interview with Reuters and the international television agency Visnews.

"We have started (peace talks) on the premise that there are two tracks, a Palestinian-Israeli one and a Jordanian-Israeli one, as is the case of the rest of the Arab states," he added.

"This is precisely how it started and this is precisely how it is going to go," he declared.

The King spoke as Arab and Israeli negotiators were about to resume talks in Washington, picking up the threads of a dispute over the format of the Israel-Palestinian talks for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The talks, part of the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid on Oct. 30, went into recess on Thursday after three days of probing.

But the Israeli and joint

Jordanian-Palestinian delegations spent nearly 20 hours in the corridors of the U.S. State Department because they could not agree on whether to sit down in one room or two.

The Arab side wants the Palestinians to negotiate self-rule independently of the Jordanians, while the Israelis, reluctant to treat the Palestinians as equals, want the Jordanians to retain a supervisory role.

"Just as an example, what has Jordan, in the face of the argument that the Israelis have put across time and again, got to do with Gaza," the King asked.

He said Gazan doctor Haidar Abdul Shafiq, head of the Palestinian team within the joint delegation, and other delegates who come from the tiny coastal strip, should talk about Israel's occupation of Gaza.

Israel wants to win Arab recognition by holding the talks in Israel and Arab capitals. The Arabs are determined to withhold such recognition until Israel agrees to start withdrawing from the occupied territories.

"In terms of direct negotiations here in the region, it is impossible because Palestinians cannot negotiate under occupation and duress and because it is physically and emotionally impossible at this stage to arrange for such meetings to take place immediately in the vicinity," he said.

When negotiations "have covered a lot of ground and seen results," Jordan would look at the possibility of a move, the King said. "But right now it has to be there (in Washington)."

King Hussein also said he had made little headway through his



Washington urges Israel to restrain settlers

From Jordan Times Staff Reporters in Washington

THE UNITED STATES urged the Israeli government Monday to restrain Jewish settlers in the occupied territories and accused them of trying to sabotage Middle East peace negotiations.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the U.S. was "seriously concerned about provocative acts" and he said the United States had raised its concerns with Israeli officials in Washington.

"As for the Silwan situation... the real issue to us is not legal title or legal issues surrounding ownership of houses but the real issue is the exercise of control by the government over individuals who are obviously bent on destroying the prospects of peace," Mr. Boucher told journalists in a briefing. He also called on Palestinians to refrain from carrying out acts of violence against Israelis.

"We call on the government of Israel to demonstrate its own commitment to peace by preventing unilateral acts and restoring harmony to the city of Jerusalem," he said.

Jordan took a neutral stand in the crisis despite a massive outpouring of popular support for Iraq's defiance of the West.

It angered Saudi Arabia, its

main financial backer for the past decade, and other wealthy Gulf states when it refused to send

exhaustive efforts to repair Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states since the end of the war over Kuwait.

But he said he was satisfied that Jordan's ties with the West, also severely strained during the Gulf crisis because of Jordan's perceived pro-Iraqi stance, had improved tremendously.

"...I believe the outside world knows us better and understands more clearly where we stand," he said in a reference to Jordan's opposition to Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait and its futile efforts to avert the Gulf war.

"As regards our (Arab) brethren, well, there is nothing more I can do, or we can do," he said.

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Jordan took a neutral stand in the crisis despite a massive outpouring

Middle East News

Palestinians ask U.S. for PLO representation at multilateral talks

By Allison Kaplan
The Jerusalem Post

WASHINGTON — Palestinians have formally asked the U.S. to allow PLO representation at the multilateral talks, but have not yet received an answer, according to an adviser to the Palestinian delegation in Washington.

Tayseer Aruri, a former political activist and physics professor at Bir Zeit University who was deported from his residence in Ramallah in 1989, told The Jerusalem Post that the request to the U.S. was made after the Madrid peace conference, and before the bilateral talks.

Palestinians anticipate that because the next phases of the peace process will deal with "questions that concern the Palestinians in Israel and the Palestinians in the diaspora," it is "very important that we find a formula to represent the Palestinians in the diaspora," he said.

Mr. Aruri, who spent a year in prison near Nablus before his deportation for activities related to the Palestinian communist parties, now divides his time between Amman and Paris. He tries to reverse his deportation order through media interviews and political lobbying in the U.S. and European governments.

In Washington, his time is spent in the Grand Hotel, working with the Palestinian delegation in the process he hopes will lead to a Palestinian state. He said the Palestinians are prepared to accept interim self-government arrangements, "but interim needs to be understood."

The serious and bespectacled Aruri said he views his status as a deportee as ironic, since "I was deported because I was advocating the kind of process that is going on now."

He paused when asked if he truly believed the U.S. will support the evolution of a Palestinian state, which the Palestinian delegation says is their goal.

"The Americans' only concern in the region, judging by their strategy toward it, is to have stability, and the only ways to

Rafsanjani leaves Sudan, says no Iran troops there

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, ending a high-profile state visit to Sudan, said on Monday Tehran had sent no military forces to help the Sudanese army fight southern rebels.

Senior military officials accompanied Mr. Rafsanjani on the four-day visit in which he stressed Islamic unity and the experience of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

"Our cooperation with Sudan is centred on technical, economic and trade relations," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling reporters in Khartoum.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Sudan's military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir, Mr. Rafsanjani said Western reports that Iran had sent military forces to train the Sudanese army were "nothing but fabrications" IRNA said.

Iraian officials support Sudan's campaign against rebels in the predominantly African, animist and Christian south who have been fighting a bush war since 1983.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who went to Sudan after attending last week's Islamic summit in Senegal, said Muslim countries should step up

their cooperation to make a stronger stand against the West.

The Tehran Times said on Monday Mr. Rafsanjani would visit Saudi Arabia in the second half of January — his third foreign trip since becoming president in 1989. He visited Syria in April.

"What we have seen shows that the Islamic revolution in Sudan has reached all aspects of life in the country," Mr. Rafsanjani told a mass wedding for more than 1,000 couples in the town of Hasabe in central Sudan on Sunday.

"With reliance in God, Islam and the Koran you will face no difficulty in the road ahead of you."

Lieutenant-General Basir, who seized power in 1989 and has introduced Muslim Sharia law, described Iran's Islamic revolution as "a mirage illuminating the way for Muslims."

IRNA said under a trade agreement signed on Saturday Iran will export oil, agriculture machinery, medicine and electrical equipment to Sudan, which will ship meat, vegetable oil and maize in return.

The agency said Mr. Rafsanjani left for home later Monday.

Lebanon seeks U.S. weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lebanon plans to ask the United States this week for weapons to strengthen its army and thereby bring about the withdrawal of Israeli troops from its territory, Israeli diplomats say.

Mr. Aruri said that there is a contradiction between the Palestinian request for direct PLO representation in the multilaterals and statements by Palestinians that the delegations in Madrid and Washington have "a full mandate" to represent "all the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in the diaspora," leaving unstated the implication that this means they do in fact represent the PLO.

In fact, he argued, judging from the behaviour of the Israeli delegation, the Palestinian group has more decision-making authority than the Israelis.

"It is well known that the coordination between the delegation and the PLO here while in Madrid and Washington was and will be in the manner that will allow the process to develop and move on and achieve results. The delegation is in a very high mandate and freer hand than the Israeli delegation. We wish the Israeli delegation had the same mandate as the Palestinian delegation," he said.

The delegation coming to Washington has a mandate not only on the procedural questions but on substance. The only thing which is not mandated to the delegation is that it does not have the right to give up the Palestinian right to self-determination and independence."

He said that in conversations with Palestinian delegation leader Haidar Abdul Shafi, Israeli chief negotiator Elayikim Rubinstein constantly played down his ability to make substantive decisions. "So many times, Mr. Rubinstein would say: 'If I do that, Mr. Shamir will kick me — if I do that, Mr. Shamir would execute me. Dr. Abdul Shafi has never had to use a phrase like that," Mr. Aruri said.

In his opinion Israel has been pushed into the peace process to preserve its relationship with the U.S. and it is trying to create obstacles "at every word and comma" to scuttle the process.

On Sunday, Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian negotiators continued what one diplomat called their "paper chase" in an effort to settle a procedural impasse that has blocked the start of substantive talks among them.

For three days last week, the heads of these three delegations conferred on a sofa in a State Department hallway, exchanging written proposals but failing to bridge their differences.

On Sunday, the two sides spoke by telephone in advance of face-to-face meeting Monday.

Lebanon insists that Israel must withdraw from its territory, saying such a move could pave the way for other agreements among Israelis and Arabs.

"The dawn should come up on the Lebanese front," said one senior Arab negotiator. He called an Israeli pullout "a testing ground" for Israel's intentions and a "confidence building measure."

An Israeli withdrawal would signal to the other Arab states — especially Syria — that Israel has accepted the principle, laid out in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, of land for peace.

Syria is demanding an Israeli pullout from the Golan Heights and offering peace in return. Israel says any negotiation on territory would only follow Syrian recognition of the Jewish state and a peace treaty between the two countries.

Israel, meanwhile, is demanding that Syria withdraw from Lebanon, saying the Lebanese government is not free to make peace with Israel as long as Syria "occupies" its territory.

The negotiator said Lebanon could assure Israel's security concerns about southern Lebanon if it had a strong military.

Lebanon's 42,000-strong army, fractured by 16 years of civil war, was reunited last year under a peace pact brokered largely by Syria, which maintains 40,000 troops in the country.

So far, the United States has been reluctant to equip the Lebanese military.

But with this month's release of the last American hostages held by Iranian-backed groups in Lebanon, the Lebanese government believes the United States might relent, the negotiator said.

The agency said Mr. Rafsanjani left for home later Monday.

Another rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 13/19

Deserts 0/14

Jordan Valley 4/18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21/13

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King confers medal on journalist

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday honoured journalist, writer and columnist Sultan Al Hattab by conferring on him Al Kawkab Medal of the Second Order in recognition of his accomplishments.

Mr. Hattab, who was member of the Royal Commission which drafted the National Charter had written a book entitled "In the Light of Al Hussein's Ideas" which he presented to the King at an audience at the Royal Court Monday. Chief of the Royal Court Abo Odeh attended the audience.

The book describes Jordan's democratic experiment and the political situation in the country.

King Hussein praised Mr. Hattab's distinguished journalistic efforts and voiced his appreciation of the writer's follow-up on the democratic process in the Kingdom through his articles and relentless research work, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

The Jordan Press Association (JPA) last month dismissed Mr. Hattab and banned him from writing because he gave interviews to Israeli television during the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

The JPA council condemned what it termed Mr. Hattab's "disgraceful behaviour" and said the

interviews he gave to Israeli TV constituted high treason and were a violation of Jordanian laws.

Mr. Hattab, a native of the Israeli occupied West Bank city of Hebron, said he talked to Israeli television to defend and explain Jordan's official position which calls for the withdrawal of Israel from Arab lands, the implementation of international legitimacy and the restoration of Palestinians' legitimate rights.

Mr. Hattab said in an interview last month that he was surprised at the press association's decision, noting that he would stick to his stand.

His dismissal from the JPA came only three days after the Jordanian Writers Federation decided on a similar measure, citing "moral punishment" on Mr. Hattab for his contacts with Israel.

However, several Jordanian journalists and writers came out in support of Mr. Hattab.

In the words of a leading Jordanian columnist Rami Khouri, Mr. Hattab "simply did what was the logical conclusion of the diplomatic effort that has defined this region since 1973."

He said: "To use the Israeli media to deliver our message directly to the Israeli people seems rather important if we know how to use the media to our advantage."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Bhutan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Monday a cable to King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Bhutan's national day. King Hussein wished King Jigme continued good health and happiness and the Bhutan people further progress and prosperity.

Arabiyat receives Libyan engineers

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat received in his office Monday a delegation representing the Libyan Agricultural Engineers Association which is currently visiting Jordan. The meeting discussed the situation in the region and emphasised the need to promote cooperation between Arab countries.

Surour to head team to Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the ninth session of the Arab Housing and Construction Ministers Council, due to start in Cairo Wednesday. The council will discuss in its three-day meeting issues pertaining to the holy city of Jerusalem, the housing strategies in Arab states, the convening of an Arab conference on the national housing strategy, marking the Arab Housing Day in 1992, and a report by the arbitration committee of the 1991 Arab Housing ministers council award. The Jordanian delegation will be headed by Public Works and Housing Minister Saad Hayel Surour, and will comprise as members director general of the Housing Department Yousef Hijas and director of the ministry's public relations department Muhammed Hijazi.

Arab World shuns women from contributing to socio-economic development

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday opened a three-day pan-Arab symposium on women in employment and development of the Arab World with a call on Arab governments to give more opportunities to women's contributions to socio-economic development.

"Women's contribution to such development" the Princess said, "does not exceed 15 per cent although Arab countries have achieved good progress and development in all walks of life."

"Socio-economic development has covered health, educational, cultural and infrastructure sectors in the Arab World but all that involved limited participation of Arab women," the Princess pointed out.

The present symposium is designed to identify Arab women's status, determine women's contributions to economic and social

development and women's role for future tasks, the Princess said.

Princess Basma voiced appreciation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for organising the seminar and of U.N. organisations for supporting women's activities.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti called for private and public sector's cooperation to help deal with the various challenges facing development in the Arab World.

Topics to be reviewed by the present symposium, the minister said, were related to Arab women's contributions to development which should be encouraged by Arab states.

Dr. Nabil Khouri, the ILO representative, told the meeting that the role of women in development has been given increasing attention in the modern age on the part of regional and

international organisations as well as individual nations.

He said that equal opportunities should be open to men and women and comprehensive national plans ought to be worked out to ensure fair participation by women in development-related matters.

Altogether, 11 working papers dealing with women-related affairs will be reviewed by delegates representing seven countries in addition to ILO and the Arab League.

The meeting, held at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman, will also look into legislations in Arab countries about the role of workers and women's involvement in development.

The meeting was organised in cooperation with the pan-Arab Association for Women in Development which groups men and women from Arab states concerned with women issues.

Jordan reaffirms 'no' telephone link with Israel

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Citing a delay in approving charge rates, Israel said Monday it was putting on hold a direct-dial service and Jordan reaffirmed its rejection of the unilateral Israeli move to open telephone services.

The delay in the service, which was to have become operational Tuesday according to an earlier Israeli statement, was announced by the Israeli minister of communications, Raphael Pinhasi, who explained that the charge rates required the approval of a committee of the Israeli parliament.

The Israeli scheme will be using a satellite routing system through the United States.

In Amman, Communications Minister Jamal Sarayreh reaffirmed Jordan's rejection of the Israeli move to establish phone links with the Kingdom, which is among 11 Arab countries named in the earlier Israeli announcement.

"This is not going to happen," Mr. Sarayreh told reporters on the fringes of a Parliament session. "We have taken measures to ensure that no call originating

in Israel will be channelled to Jordan."

The minister said the Jordanian government had informed all international communications organisations of the Kingdom's position and that "those who violate the instruction will be taken to court."

According to Mr. Sarayreh, it is not technically possible to directly route calls originating in Israel to Jordan unless Israel uses military jamming to circumvent the Jordanian counter-measure.

"If Israel resorts to such jamming," said Mr. Sarayreh, "it will be violating international agreements and norms, and we will take up the matter with the concerned international bodies as well as the United Nations."

The minister agreed that Jordan could do little to stop computerised channelling of calls to and from Israel to the Kingdom through Europe-based systems, but warned that "if we come across cases like that everyone involved will be prosecuted."

Jordan has categorically stated that it had not agreed to the Israeli "offer" to open direct-dial phones nor was it involved in any related discussions.

Senior officials have characterised the Israeli move as a "propaganda stunt" to show the world that the Jewish state was ready to normalise relations with Arab countries while the Arabs were not.

In earlier comments to the Jordan Times, Mr. Sarayreh described the Israeli action as "international piracy and violation of all international laws and regulations."

Apart from Jordan, the other countries included in the unilateral Israeli step are Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebano, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Some of these countries have protested and rejected the move, but others have not made any public statements.

In his remarks Monday, Mr. Pinhasi, the Israeli minister, asserted that the move came as a "signal of Israel's honest desire for real peace. Therefore it wants to create not only phone links but also postal links."

At present the only Arab country with phone and postal links with Israel is Egypt, which signed a separate peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1979.

Crown Prince examines M.E. ills, repeats need for Arab, Islamic front

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

has appealed to the Arab and

Islamic nations as well as individual nations.

He said that equal opportunities should be open to men and women and comprehensive national plans ought to be worked out to ensure fair participation by women in development-related matters.

Altogether, 11 working papers

dealing with women-related affairs will be reviewed by delegates representing seven countries in addition to ILO and the Arab League.

They are acquired during their long years of service abroad.

At least 150 scholars and scientists representing more than 20

Arab and Islamic countries and various organisations are taking part in the Islamic Academy of Sciences' meeting.

The ESCWA meeting is

attended by experts examining possibilities of integrating the skilled expatriate workers in the ESCWA region.

"Persecution, natural disaster, eviction of foreign workers and internal strife are all among the main causes behind migration of two million workers and their dependents who left behind their lifetime savings, business assets and community relationships they had built over the years."

He said that while the sudden return was a calamity for the individual returnees, it was disastrous for the economies of the home countries.

Dr. Abdel Jaber said that the ESCWA meeting aims at exchanging views on experiences in handling the absorption of returnees.

Government spends heavily on repairing road damages from extra axial weights

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is concerned over problems resulting from extra axial weights on the roads and streets and has taken appropriate measures to deal with the problem but internal circumstances delayed the application of these measures so far, said Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day symposium on axial weights, the minister said that the government was keen on taking such measures to safeguard the road networks in the Kingdom.

The government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran had endorsed regulations fixing the load weights on trucks using roads in Jordan so that no damage can happen to the roads, but the implementation of the measures was delayed.

The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) had protested against such measure because, it said, the regulation meant placing less phosphate loads on trucks going to Aqaba from the mines in the south and delays in export operations.

The government is in the process of preparing a set of regulations to define the loads on the roads in a bid to protect the roads and protect national interests," the minister said.

He said the damage being caused to the roads at present was costing the Kingdom a fortune.

Mr. Suheimat stood in for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in opening the symposium which is sponsored by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCAWA), the Public Security Department and the Jordanian Overland Transport Society.

Two working papers were submitted in the first session dealing with implications related to axial weights on the roads and measures to deal with the issue.

The first paper submitted by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing dealt with regulations on road use by trucks. "It is the design and the specifications of roads and bridges which determine the amount of weight that road can carry," said the paper.

The paper stressed that the extra weight on the roads was the direct cause of damage which cost the country huge funds. The paper recommended the application of axial weight regulations to protect the road network which cost some JD1,200 million to build.

The second paper, which was submitted by the Public Security Department, dealt with control on road use by trucks. "It is the design and the specifications of roads and bridges which determine the amount of weight that road can carry," said the paper.

The paper called for the application of the axial weight regulations and recommended imposing stricter penalties on violators of the law. The paper also suggested installing weighing stations in order to check the amount of weight carried by each vehicle.

Other papers to be reviewed cover relationships between axial loads and the cost of road use.

Retarded children exhibit rare skills

According to the principal of the YMWA's Centre for Special Education, the purpose of the vocational section of the school is to keep the mentally retarded children busy so that they can find out more about their capabilities and limitations.

"It is very therapeutic to keep the children busy," Goussoon Karch said, adding that the vocational section of the school is the third stage of schooling for the students enrolled.

"The students enter pre-school when they are below eight years of age. At eight years they are transferred to the school level. At 16 years the students are enrolled in the vocational section of the school to get prepared for a life in the outside community. At that level it is very important for the students to know their own

limitations, but at the same time they can learn certain vocational skills to enable them to find work when they graduate the age of 18," Ms. Karch said.

There are two new sections at the vocational centre that the school takes pride in. These sections are the ceramics and the weaving sections in which modern techniques are taught.

"The wool used in the weaving section is dyed with natural colours which the students make themselves," Ms. Karch said.

According to Hiroyo Matsudo, the teacher responsible for the weaving section, the students enrolled in the vocational section of the school to get prepared for a life in the outside community. At that level it is very important for the students to know their own

capabilities and limitations, but at the same time they can learn certain vocational skills to enable them to find work when they graduate the age of 18," Ms. Karch said.

get to the stage where they use the colour they made to colour the wool and place the wool in the kiln, the children learn about colours. For example, it is not unusual that the colour taken from plants and red leaves becomes yellow after it is stabilised by heating in the kiln. This is a learning experience for the children," Ms. Matsudo said, adding that this natural dyeing technique is possibly the first of its kind in the Kingdom and is one of the safest colouring techniques used because the dyes are very low in toxicity.

The ceramics section is one of the highlights of the exhibition with its accurate and beautiful work. The choice of colours and their coordination and combination in each piece of art shows an immense amount of talent and ability. The works displayed include vases, ash trays, mirror frames and wall displays.

The woodwork section is one of the first vocational programmes set up at the school, according to Ms. Karch.

The work done includes educational games made of wood and

furniture of the best quality especially made for play houses in schools. Last year the school provided furniture for play houses in 40 schools. Now they are making wooden sections that could be attached to kitchen designs. Companies specialising in designing kitchens have given the school tenders to make woodworks which these companies include in their designs," Ms. Karch said.

Ms. Karch said that it was time to expand the school premises, but the land adjoining the school which she hopes to buy has risen in price from JD 8,000 to JD 22,000. The increase in price delays the plan to expand the school when it is most necessary. The school which was founded in 1972 has been responsible for qualifying children for jobs in the community, which is something that may not have been a possibility for these children," Ms. Karch said.

The exhibition was opened under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvah Al Hassan, who is the president of the YMWA. The exhibition will last until Dec. 18.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Hussein at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jalal Oreqat at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Nadeem Muhsen and Halim Mahdi at Beladna Art Gallery, the Gardens Street.
- ★ Art and ornametation exhibition by Sabah Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of art works by students at the special education centre of the Young Women's Muslim Association at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "National Reconciliation and the Case of Democracy in Iraq" by Dr. Wamid Nazzal at the Cultural and Scientific Centre of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Lagos — a Changing City on a Changing Continent" by Prof. Elmar Dittman at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

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17-24 December 1991

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At Philadelphia Int'l Hotel

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- Embroidered casual wear
- Embroidered bedcovers & cushions
- Collector dolls in traditional dress
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

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On with business

NOW that the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has won the Parliament's vote of confidence, the stage is set for both the government and Parliament to get into business and start once again the process of dealing effectively with their respective agendas. The issues on the agendas of both sides are many and formidable and by and large complementary in the sense that their resolution would require the full cooperation and coordination of the two branches of government. At a time when the Cabinet will be taken with the issue of peace in the Middle East as well as with the formulation of meaningful policies to tackle the economic woes facing the country, notably unemployment and the ever-increasing pockets of poverty, deputies would be busy debating and adopting new legislations, especially on the formation of political parties and freedom of publication and press. In this context, it would be difficult if not impossible to delineate with any degree of precision where the role of the executive branch begins and where the function of the legislative branch ends. That is why maximum synchronisation between the two sides is called for in these trying times when there are grave domestic and external challenges facing the country. Judging by the tone and substance of the Lower House of Parliament debate during the last two days, which was devoid of shallow rhetoric and characterised by seasoned analysis, one would expect the same harmonious atmosphere to dominate the relationship between them in the coming two years. After all, the stakes for democracy and the continued democratisation process are indeed big and no one in a position of responsibility can afford to undermine what we all have painstakingly endeavoured to construct ever since the resurrection of parliamentary democracy in 1989. The eyes of the people will surely be focused on how their representatives in Parliament would be carrying on their solemn duties. Likewise, Jordanians will zealously observe how the government is implementing directives included in the King's speech from the throne on the basis of which the government sought confidence. In this vein, it would be most useful if contacts and communication between the various Cabinet ministers on the one hand, and parliamentarians, on the other, could continue beyond the Parliament's building. There is a need for a perpetual dialogue over the proliferating issues facing the country. Such an exchange of views needs to be institutionalised on firmer grounds in order to render them more constructive and effective. Both branches of government cannot afford to fail the Kingdom in this eventful era.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE UNITED States is master of hypocrisy and is far from being great or a superpower in view of its criminal policies and the massacring of innocent civilians around the world, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily in an editorial Monday. Referring to Washington's announcement of a worldwide campaign to raise contributions and food aid to the hungry people of Russia, the paper said that as it makes this announcement the United States is killing the Iraqi people through the continuing embargo. The paper said that President George Bush is massacring tens of thousands of children and sick men and women without shedding one tear, but he is careful to show the world that he sympathises with the hungry people of Russia. The United States can by no means be considered a great superpower because to be great it should offer humanity great feats, helping to brighten people's lives not taking them away, the paper continued. Only those personalities who offered mankind great help are considered by history to be great because they valued principles and noble actions, the paper added. It said that the American president is trying to build personal glory for himself and is seeking a second term in office through continuing his murderous acts against the innocent people of Iraq. The paper said that such a situation is a big tragedy for mankind and not an achievement at a time when the world has begun to wake up to the reality that Washington's bragging about democracy and human rights is nothing but a big lie, a synonym for crimes and murder.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily attacked the United States for seeking a new resolution from the U.N. General Assembly rescinding a former resolution equating Zionism with racism. Mohammad Kharroub said with this move the United States is trying to terminate all the gains achieved by countries of the Third World over the past decades and during the cold war era. By rescinding its own resolution about Zionism, the General Assembly is thus helping Washington achieve its goal of the so-called new world order which condones Israel's continued occupation of Arab land and its racist policies against the Palestinian people, the writer said. He said that the United States, which claims to be keen on achieving peace in the Middle East, is allowing Israel to step up its racist and terrorist actions against the Palestinians and continue to occupy Arab lands. Any claim by the United States that it is not a protector of the aggressors is false and can not deceive any one, said the writer. Should the United States succeed in its attempt to rescind the assembly's previous resolution at Monday's meeting, said the writer, it would prove to the world once again that the whole world community is subject to Washington's will and whims and can only act in a manner that would best safeguard American and Zionist interests.

By Susan Cornwell
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Faced with the threat of a renewed plunge into recession, the U.S. administration and some top Democrats have started to think about cooperating to get the economy out of trouble and themselves reelected.

U.S. President George Bush has not decided which levers to pull to try to spur economic growth, as was apparent by the contradictory testimony of his economic advisers on Capitol Hill last week.

But the hearings before the tax-writing House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee did produce elements of a

possible deal between the Republican administration and the Democratic-dominated Congress on a tax-cut package to stimulate the economy before the 1992 elections.

By the weekend, key people on both sides were talking about negotiations and compromise.

Dan Rostenkowski, who chairs the Ways and Means Committee, said the Democrats would come forward with their own tax-cut proposals, but hoped there would be negotiations with the Bush administration.

"I think that the country is ready for fair negotiations and that the people are tired of us bickering," he told the Cable News Network (CNN) on Saturday.

But the hearings before the tax-writing House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee did produce elements of a

possible deal between the Republican administration and the Democratic-dominated Congress on a tax-cut package to stimulate the economy before the 1992 elections.

"I would hope we could begin the process of consultation on a possible compromise in early January with key members" of Congress, he said on the NBC television network on Sunday.

But other officials warned that a deal between the White House and Congress was a long shot in an election year, when both political parties are trying to get the upper hand.

"It's a long way from here to there. We may end up with a big fight before we get there," one senior administration official told

Reuters.

During hearings before Mr. Rostenkowski's committee on Thursday and Friday, it emerged that the Bush administration was more willing than before to consider tax cuts for the middle class, a standard battle-cry of the Democrats.

Mr. Damman testified that Mr. Bush has ordered his economic advisers to study whether middle class tax cuts should be part of the economic package the president plans to unveil in his state of the union address at the end of January.

It was also pointed out during the Ways and Means Committee hearings that some Democrats favour a cut in the tax on invest-

ment profits, a proposal dear to Mr. Bush's heart.

But even if the parties reach

agreement on a mix of these

tax-cut proposals, the question

remains of how to pay for them

and whether this can be done

within the limits of last year's

deficit-reduction deal between

the White House and Congress.

A Capitol Hill source said on

Friday the congressional Budget

Office would soon revise its eco-

nomic growth estimates down-

ward to one per cent or below in

the current quarter — danger-

ously close to a second dip into

recession after two quarters of

sluggish growth.

Some observers say this won-

some outlook will push Repub-

licans and Democrats to make a

tax-cut deal.

blame Capitol Hill for the reces-

sion.

If he gives in too much to the

Democrats, Mr. Bush also runs

the risk of alienating the Repub-

lican right wing, still angry with

Mr. Damman for making last year's

budget deal with Congress.

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licans and Democrats to make a

tax-cut deal.

14 aircraft carriers to 12. That

total might be reduced to nine

over the next five years, some

suggested.

The officials also questioned

whether the navy could afford to

build 12 new Seawolf attack sub-

marines at two billion dollars each.

The first is not yet launched

and is already being rebuilt be-

cause of hull cracks.

The year was only seven days

old when Mr. Cheney killed the

navy's \$57 billion A-12 attack jet

programme because its joint de-

velopers, McDonnell Douglas

and General Dynamics, could not

say how much the plane would

cost.

And Congress signalled in

November that it planned to halt

production of the Northrop B-2 at

the currently planned total of

15. But it deferred a final decision

on the bombers, with a price tag

of at least \$850 million each.

"The B-2 has the limelight. But

it's only the tip of the iceberg of

spending cuts," said one senior

defence official.

Lawmakers also decided

against building more of the

aging little F-117A Stealth fight-

ers used in the Gulf war although

they gave the Defence a go-ahead to build a

limited, ground-based anti-mi-

site defence system.

Praising the way women per-

formed in support roles in the

Gulf, Congress repealed a law

which barred them from flying

U.S. combat aircraft. Mr.

Cheney promised the air force

and navy would give strong con-

sideration to sending female

pilots and crews off to battle for

the first time.

Of the four World War II

vintage U.S. battleships in service

at the start of 1991, only the USS

Missouri remained out of moth-

balls in December to help cele-

brate the 50th anniversary of the

attack on Pearl Harbour.

LETTERS

We deserve better

To the Editor:

It is indeed astonishing to watch the very amateurish coverage of the peace conference on the English channel news at 10.00.

Not only does the reporter not have an inkling of the political background as to what she is covering, she does not have a clue as to the art of listening when interviewing people who have an important say at these talks.

Moreover, and perhaps of paramount importance, is her command of the English language. It is abysmal. She cannot construct a simple question in English using the right verbs. She gesticulates instead of keeping her poise and nods her head when she should be concentrating on what the other person is saying. She does not know the difference between the Security Council and the General Assembly, two bodies of the United Nations that have adopted very important resolutions pertaining to the Middle East and, invariably, she does not understand the meaning of the questions she is posing which absolutely leads to her very unimpressive presence. What a shame for the conference to be covered in this manner.

We do deserve far better than this, since we think that Jordan Television has much better qualified staff to do the job.

If the television insists on having her on however, I would suggest to them to have her trained and enrolled in history and English language lessons. She may do it right then.

Norma Shalhoub,
Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and, preferably, address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

White House and Democrats hint possible cooperation on economy

possible deal between the Republican administration and the Democratic-dominated Congress on a tax-cut package to stimulate the economy before the 1992 elections.

By the weekend, key people on both sides were talking about negotiations and compromise.

Dan Rostenkowski, who chairs the Ways and Means Committee, said on the NBC television network on Sunday.

Both other officials warned that a deal between the White House and Congress was a long shot in an election year, when both political parties are trying to get the upper hand.

It was also pointed out during the Ways and Means Committee hearings that some Democrats favour a cut in the tax on invest-

ment profits, a proposal dear to Mr. Bush's heart.

But even if the parties reach

Israel keeps talks bogged down

(Continued from page 1)

from 14 to 10 members with a strong Jordanian presence on the Palestinian side.

The latest Israeli counter-proposal was apparently shaped with the two Israeli demands in mind.

Dr. Ashrawi struck a pessimistic note after the Israelis refused to accept either of the proposals saying the peace process was in "serious jeopardy."

"We are quickly moving into a deadlock, we have a serious sense of dismay and we feel the Israelis are quickly pushing us into an impasse," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters in a press conference after the morning session.

No progress was reported in Israel's separate talks with Syrian and Lebanese delegations.

Israeli and Syrian negotiators dueled over Syria's insistence on a return of the land Israel occupied in 1967, and Israel's insistence that Syria first prove it accept the legitimacy of the Jewish state.

In the middle of the meeting, Israeli delegation leader Yosef Ben-Aharon said he received word that the bodies of two "terrorists" carrying Syrian papers had been found on the shore of the occupied Gaza Strip. Mr. Ben-Aharon said he urged Syria to stop all "terrorist" activities against Israel by groups based on its territory.

"They are trying our patience," was Syrian delegation chief Muwaffaq Alia's assessment of the three-hour session with the Israelis. "But as I told you, we are very patient," he told reporters bundled under blankets outside the State Department in the cold.

"Unfortunately, the Israeli delegation is not budging an inch," he said. Both sides have agreed, nevertheless, to meet again Tuesday.

"The substance of the whole thing, as I told you, is territory for peace. They have to give up the territories they occupied," Mr. Alia said.

Syria points out that U.N. Resolution 242, one of the bases of the peace talks, calls for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

Mr. Ben-Aharon said: "Reducing Resolution 242 into a simplistic formula of land-for-peace is illusory and deceptive, unbalanced and illogical.

"Because according to this formula

it seems as if Israel is the one that is seeking peace and Syria is the one that is seeking territory."

Mr. Netanyahu also accused the Syrians of stonewalling one what Israel considers as mistreatment of Jews in Syria.

Syria has refused to discuss the subject and has invited international observers to visit the country and ascertain whether the Israeli charge is true.

Mr. Alia told reporters before Monday's meeting that progress was slow.

"The peace process continues but the peace itself is still elusive. We hope we shall have a fruitful week," he said.

Mr. Ben-Aharon said: "We will make every effort to make some progress before we end this round of talks. I don't think we are getting nowhere."

"This is our first opportunity to meet face to face. We never spoke to a Syrian delegation in more than 40 years. If we begin to identify points of agreement in the course of this week and build on them... that in itself is already an achievement."

Israeli spokesman Netanyahu told a news conference: "It is clear that the Arab side, led by the Palestinian Arabs, are raising talk-busters, issues that they know will bust the talks."

"They are seeking clearly an impasse with a view to having the impasse in the United States."

He cited the discovery of the bodies of two Syrians off the coast of Gaza as evidence of the Arabs' belligerent intentions. "They were clearly sent or were embarked on a mission of violence," he said.

Israeli negotiators met separately with Lebanese delegates for the fourth day and agreed to meet again Tuesday.

"It's slow, unfortunately," said Israeli negotiator Uri Luraini after two-and-a-half hours of talks with the Lebanese. "But we'll keep trying."

Israel has proposed a peace treaty with Lebanon. Lebanon is demanding that Israel first withdraw the troops it maintains in southern Lebanon, where it occupies a "buffer zone," an official said Monday.

The unusual measure came amid a sharp rise in attacks by Arabs as well as vigilante by Jewish settlers. Some officials say the stepped-up violence results from opposition to the peace talks by extremists on both sides.

In Jerusalem, slogans condemning one of Israel's negotiators to the Washington peace talks as a "traitor" were found Monday painted on the man's home.

The slogans, aimed at cabinet secretary Ehud Barak, chief negotiator with Palestinians and Jordanians, were signed by the anti-Arab Kach movement, said a police spokesman.

In the West Bank, settlers parked 20 automobiles on a highway, a main road just outside Jerusalem, blocking traffic for an hour during the morning rush, the army said.

The protest called for stiffer actions against Palestinians. Soldiers broke up the demonstration, but no arrests were reported.

The government will not be satisfied with short-term measures and solutions, he added. Proper attention is being given in the plan to such vital sectors as agriculture, industry, water, education, health, youth, justice, services, the environment of the performance of the government, he pointed out.

Noting that the plan aims at a gradual increase of the annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) from 1992 and focuses on raising the standard of living of the low and medium income group, he said the government will seek to enhance self-reliance and find solutions to "internal and external economic disruptions through following financial and monetary policies which will lead to boosting confidence in the national currency and preserve its stability, encourage investments in productive sectors..."

In an obvious reference to calls by several deputies for development of the outlying regions, Sharif Zeid called even distribution of projects throughout the Kingdom.

In general, solutions to the problems facing Jordan "will be slow but will be successful," he said. Particular care will be given to developing employment-creating small and medium-scale industries and export-oriented production through offering incentives, he added.

Accompanying the seven-year plan will be short-term programmes to offer immediate alleviation to some of the problems, and these include putting an end to profiteering and stabilising prices, he said.

Emphasising the need to improve administrative performance of public institutions, the prime minister called on every civil servant to "realise the seriousness of this stage... and realise our determination to go forward in the process of administrative reform within a definite timeframe and with definite objectives."

The government will also give proper care to developing education "the process of making man and developing his talents and creativity and maintaining and upgrading the security forces, he said.

Following the vote of confidence, Sharif Zeid thanked the House, "including those who abstained and those who voted against him," and promised close cooperation with the legislative authority.

"Instead of searching for reasons and loopholes to the exacerbation of the Gulf crisis and its consequences on Arab ranks, inter-Arab relations today are built on the basis of the winner and the vanquished, the punisher and the punished, the accuser and the accused," he said.

"We have extended our hands to our brothers without weakness since we are strong in our principles, our leadership, our regime and our free people who are confident of themselves, but maybe some had misinterpreted or reacted into judging me," he said in an obvious reference to Jordan's efforts to reconcile with Arab states in the post-Gulf war era.

"In an interview with Reuters, King Hussein said Monday that his efforts to improve relations and heal the rift in the Arab ranks had not made much headway. See separate story."

"Jordan will continue to hold its head high and will not bow to a

Washington

(Continued from page 1)

order preventing the Arab family from moving back into the house.

"Silwan will be a fortress on the face of Judaisation and settlement," one banner carried by Monday's demonstrators read.

The demonstration ended peacefully.

The government-backed Jewish settlers have put up fences and extended electricity lines.

Palestinian leader Faisal Al Husseini announced a court ruling that the Arab family could retake possession of the one-room house pending a higher court decision on the ownership.

"It is a reasonable decision. But I want the whole business to stop here," Mr. Husseini told reporters. "When we have a peaceful solution, I am sure it will be possible for anyone to come and live freely in the place they like."

Owner Fatme Karaen, 45, cried on learning of the court ruling. But police delayed implementation of the decision and settlers said they legally challenge the decision.

"Our joy will come when all the Arab houses are returned — not only mine," Karaen said.

Mr. Husseini warned last week the settlers' move into Silwan could undermine Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

One of the signs carried by Palestinian demonstrators showed a caricature of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, saying, "We entered Silwan before we entered the negotiating room," a reference to the stalled peace talks in Washington.

"Down with the settlers, down with occupation, down with racism," said another of the marchers' banners.

In another development, Palestinians are banned from walking or loitering within 150 metres of main roads in the occupied territories after dark in an effort to curb attacks on Israelis, an official said Monday.

The unusual measure came amid a sharp rise in attacks by Arabs as well as vigilante by Jewish settlers. Some officials say the stepped-up violence results from opposition to the peace talks by extremists on both sides.

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In the West Bank, settlers parked 20 automobiles on a highway, a main road just outside Jerusalem, blocking traffic for an hour during the morning rush, the army said.

The protest called for stiffer actions against Palestinians. Soldiers broke up the demonstration, but no arrests were reported.

The government will not be satisfied with short-term measures and solutions, he added. Proper attention is being given in the plan to such vital sectors as agriculture, industry, water, education, health, youth, justice, services, the environment of the performance of the government, he pointed out.

Noting that the plan aims at a gradual increase of the annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) from 1992 and focuses on raising the standard of living of the low and medium income group, he said the government will seek to enhance self-reliance and find solutions to "internal and external economic disruptions through following financial and monetary policies which will lead to boosting confidence in the national currency and preserve its stability, encourage investments in productive sectors..."

In an obvious reference to calls by several deputies for development of the outlying regions, Sharif Zeid called even distribution of projects throughout the Kingdom.

In general, solutions to the problems facing Jordan "will be slow but will be successful," he said. Particular care will be given to developing employment-creating small and medium-scale industries and export-oriented production through offering incentives, he added.

Accompanying the seven-year plan will be short-term programmes to offer immediate alleviation to some of the problems, and these include putting an end to profiteering and stabilising prices, he said.

Emphasising the need to improve administrative performance of public institutions, the prime minister called on every civil servant to "realise the seriousness of this stage... and realise our determination to go forward in the process of administrative reform within a definite timeframe and with definite objectives."

The government will also give proper care to developing education "the process of making man and developing his talents and creativity and maintaining and upgrading the security forces, he said.

"Instead of searching for reasons and loopholes to the exacerbation of the Gulf crisis and its consequences on Arab ranks, inter-Arab relations today are built on the basis of the winner and the vanquished, the punisher and the punished, the accuser and the accused," he said.

"We have extended our hands to our brothers without weakness since we are strong in our principles, our leadership, our regime and our free people who are confident of themselves, but maybe some had misinterpreted or reacted into judging me," he said in an obvious reference to Jordan's efforts to reconcile with Arab states in the post-Gulf war era.

"In an interview with Reuters, King Hussein said Monday that his efforts to improve relations and heal the rift in the Arab ranks had not made much headway. See separate story."

"Jordan will continue to hold its head high and will not bow to a

King: No retraction from two tracks

(Continued from page 1)

troops to join the U.S.-led multinational military coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait in the six-week war.

"Facts (about Jordan's stance) stand clear," he said. "I believe that many of our brethren in the Arab World, once they are able

in almost two years.

Most key Arab leaders, including Saudi Arabia King Fahd, stayed away from the summit in the Senegalese capital Dakar, ending any immediate prospects for King Hussein to directly present his case.

King Hussein said Jordan's efforts to reconcile Arabs should not be misconstrued as anything

but a genuine desire to try to look ahead rather than back.

"If these approaches and attempts are misconstrued as weakness it will be very, very sad," he said. "In any event, we have gone as far as we can and... we will wait and see."

The King said he had extensive contacts recently with Egypt, another leading Arab member of

the anti-Iraq alliance, but ruled out an imminent fence-mending visit to Cairo by saying "nothing is planned at the moment."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak sent his political adviser Osama Al Baz to Jordan two weeks ago, after Jordan's deputy prime minister, Ali Suleiman, visited Cairo with a letter from the King to Mubarak.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

APL now links Aqaba to its network

American President Lines has a long history as a transportation leader in the world. Two decades ago we pioneered containerisation to the Middle East, and in the mid-1980's launched a regular weekly service to the Gulf. We are furthering our commitment to the region by offering services to Aqaba, linking Aqaba to the rest of the Middle East, India, the Far East and all USA ports: Let the recognised leader in containerised transportation meet your shipping needs — call APL.

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Wheaton wins Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (AP) — David Wheaton captured the biggest prize in tennis and found the excitement wore off quickly.

"It was a great day but 10-15 minutes, you hold the trophy, everybody leaves and goes on with life," Wheaton said.

However, his 7-5, 6-2, 6-4, victory over fellow American Michael Chang Sunday in the final of the Grand Slam Cup however allowed him to go home with \$2 million.

Wheaton, ranked 17th on the men's circuit, had won just one ATP tour-sanctioned tournament in his career, the 1990 U.S. clay court title in Charleston, South Carolina.

But Sunday's win more than doubled his career earnings, while the 15th-ranked Chang earned \$1 million for the day, ending a year for him that included just one tournament victory.

"David played very well. He served very well and that was my major problem," Chang said. "It was tough enough trying to hold my own serve without thinking of breaking his."

"My serve was able to get me out of some tough situations," Wheaton said. "To look at the

big picture of the match, I would say my serve was the major factor."

The Grand Slam Cup, a \$6 million event in its second year, gathers the top finishers from the four Grand Slam tournaments but does not count for any ATP Tour rankings or official prize money.

But despite the expected top-name field, illness, injuries and late-season fatigue cast the tournament Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker before it began and French Open winner Jim Courier left in the early rounds.

"I really feel now how the top three feel," Wheaton said. "You just can't play every week. It's not only physically, but also mentally drains you."

Chang had been bothered by a groin injury for the past three matches and both finalists wore compression shorts for leg support.

"It takes its toll," Chang said. "It was unfortunate I had the injury but I didn't think it played a major role today."

Wheaton, 22, led 5-4 and served for the first after more than an hour but Chang countered with four good returns to break him at love.

Wheaton broke back to lead 6-5 and this time served out at love to win the set, finishing with an ace.

"It's so nice to be able to come up with an ace on a big point," Wheaton said.

Wheaton's serve bailed him out of trouble a number of times.

Chang had 17 break chances but converted just two.

In the second set, Wheaton jump on Chang's serve again and led 2-0 but was increasing moved in on net and took control, taking a 5-1 lead before winning 6-2.

Wheaton gained an early break in the third set, coming in behind short returns by Chang, and led 4-1 before Chang rallied to get within 4-3.

"I've been through the Michael Chang comeback syndrome," Wheaton said. "At a tournament in Hong Kong I was up 5-0 and lost, 7-6, 6-1."

But Wheaton held serve to move to 5-3 and had two match points against Chang's serve, but Chang held. Chang however couldn't force a final break, finally succumbing on a volley winner and Wheaton's 17th ace.

"I never thought it was over until I fired that ace down the middle for the final point," Wheaton said.

Both players had enough results to help qualify them for the elite field, although neither was spectacular.

Wheaton reached the semifinals at Wimbledon but was eliminated in the first rounds at the Australian and French Opens.

Chang's top effort was a quarterfinal berth at the French.

However none of the four Grand Slam winners were around at the end and only Wimbledon winner Michael Stich made it as far as the semifinals.

"It takes everything out of you to go out there and perform with high intensity every point of the match," Wheaton said.

The absences and departures paved the way for Chang and Wheaton to the final.

Wheaton reached the final after beating Stich in three tie-breakers in Saturday's semifinal that ended after midnight, less than 14 hours before the final.

Chang outlasted Ivan Lendl in a marathon semifinal match Saturday that revived memories of their French Open confrontation two years ago.

Chang came from two sets down and saved a match point to beat Lendl, 2-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 9-7 in 4 hours, 42 minutes.

First ever women's soccer championship held in Jordan

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Jordan this week organised Jordan's first ever women's soccer championship. The senior students beat the sophomores 5-3 in the final match played at the faculty's indoor court.

Manal Banat (who won the top scorer's award for 7 goals) and Iman Awni each scored two goals while Raghad Tarawneh scored the fifth goal for the seniors. Siham and Lama Khalailah scored for the sophomores.

Seven teams from the Faculty of Physical Education took part in the championship.

"It was very encouraging to see the students actively taking part in such a competition. It drew the interest of everyone at the faculty and there was a big crowd following it," faculty member Dr. Sarri Hamdan told the Jordan Times.

"Many countries now have women's soccer teams participating in championships worldwide. Maybe this will be a starting point towards the forming of women's soccer teams in Jordan," Dr. Hamdan added.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

IWSF thanks Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat received a letter from Aubrey Sheena, president of the International Water-Skiing Federation (IWSF), congratulating him on the success of the water skiing competition which was held in Aqaba Nov. 28-Dec. 2. Fifty-five participants from 13 countries took part in the competition which France won followed by Switzerland in second place and Britain in third place.

Iraq to hold annual soccer event

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad has decided that Iraq should remember the Gulf war every year through a "Mother Of All Battles" Soccer Championship. The first 150,000 dinar (\$15,000 at black market rates) "Mother Of All Battles" Championship was won in September by Iraq's leading club, Al Zawraa. News of the decision to make the championship an annual event was carried Monday by the ruling Baath Party newspaper, Al-Thawra. Tens of thousands of Iraqis were killed in the war over Kuwait which pitted Baghdad against a multinational U.S.-led coalition. Iraq called its fight against the allies the "mother of all battles."

Magic touched by Abdul Jabbar's offer

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Magic Johnson said Sunday night he is deeply touched by former teammate Kareem Abdul Jabbar's desire to return to the NBA to promote AIDS awareness. "First of all, words can't describe my feeling toward his gesture and his love and his wanting to get behind my cause and my fight against the virus and the AIDS disease," Johnson said before the Los Angeles Lakers' game with the Sacramento Kings, "for him to do that makes me feel good." Abdul Jabbar, the NBA's all-time leading scorer who retired from the Lakers in 1989, said Saturday he's considering a comeback to dramatise Johnson's fight against AIDS. Johnson said the 44-year-old former Lakers centre can only decide for himself if he's capable of contributing to an NBA team. "When Kareem talks about doing something, he will know if he can do it," Johnson said. "If he knows he can't do it, he will back away from it. If you're talking about 10 or 15 minutes a game, he's just as good as anybody's backup right now." Johnson, who retired from basketball on Nov. 7 when he announced he has the virus that causes AIDS, worked out at the forum before Sunday night's game and took his customary place on the bench during the contest.

Krabbe may miss European championships

ROSTOCK, Germany (AP) — German sprinter Katrin Krabbe said she was likely to miss the European Indoor Championships next year and will race in only a few meets before the summer Olympics. Krabbe, who won the 100- and 200-metre titles at the World Championships in Tokyo earlier this year, told the Ostsee newspaper she planned to run in only four or five meets before the European Indoor Championships in Genoa, Italy, Feb. 28-March 1. Krabbe said her greatest rival, Merlene Ottey of Jamaica, was capable of running every 100-metre race under 11 seconds when she is in good shape. "I can't. That's why I am going to prepare for one high point in 1992" — the Olympics, Krabbe was quoted as saying.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

THE BETTER HALF.

HARRIS

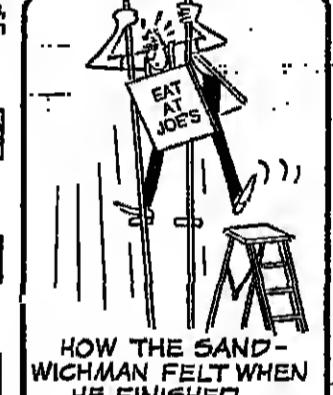


"My pancakes are light and fluffy. The secret ingredient is helium!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: IT WAS A

(Answers tomorrow)

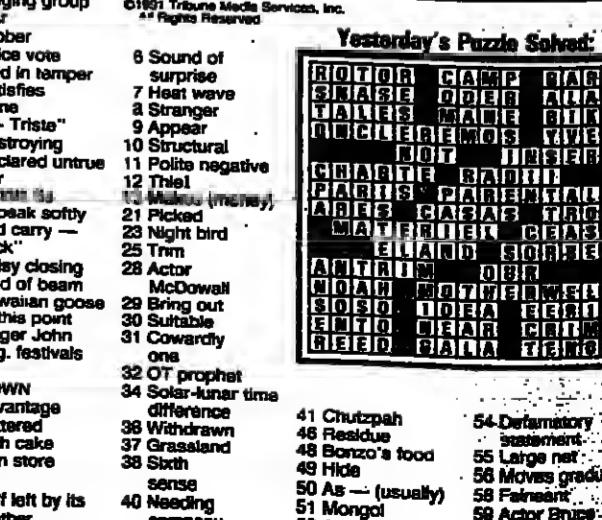
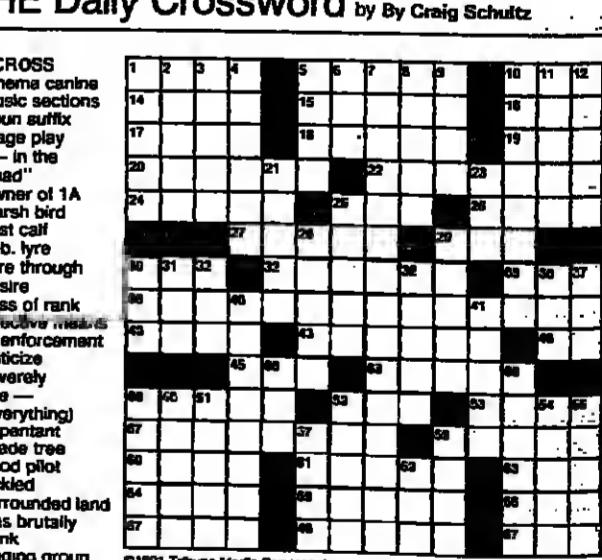
Yesterday's

Jumbles: AWFUL OXIDE WORTHY VOLUME

Answer: He's been so anxious to make a living that he's forgotten this—HOW TO LIVE

THE Daily Crossword

by Craig Schultz



Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
	Date 13/12/91	Date 16/12/91
Sterling Pound	1.6158	1.6199
Deutsche Mark	1.5895	1.5844
Swiss Franc	1.4030	1.3938
French Franc	5.4500	5.3940 **
Japanese Yen	129.08	128.45
European Currency Unit	1.2625	1.2603**

* USD per SGD
** European Opening for 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	Foreign currency interest rates			
	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	4.43	4.43	4.50
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.50	10.45	10.45
Deutsche Mark	9.50	9.45	9.36	9.37
Swiss Franc	5.12	5.00	4.95	4.97
French Franc	9.75	9.61	9.75	9.43
Japanese Yen	6.51	5.95	5.78	5.50
European Currency Unit	10.56	10.57	10.51	10.71

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	Date: 16/12/91			
	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	359.65	6.85	Silver	5.85

21 Nov Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 16/12/91

Currency	Bid		Offer	
	USD	JD	USD	JD
U.S. Dollar	0.6800	0.6820		
Sterling Pound	1.7345	1.7407		
Deutsche Mark	0.4749	0.4710		
Swiss Franc	0.4659	0.4683		
French Franc	0.1256	0.1265		
Japanese Yen	0.5251	0.5507		
Dutch Guilder	0.3806	0.3827		
Swedish Krona	0.1173	0.1179		
Italian Lira*	0.0566	0.0571		
Belgian Franc	0.02079	0.02089		

* Per 100

Other Currencies	Date: 16/12/91	
	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7740	1.7830
Lebanese Lira*	0.0770	0.0777
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1816
Kuwaiti Dinar	--	--
Qatari Riyal	0.1842	0.1850
Egyptian Pound	0.3000	0.2770
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7490
UAE Dirham	0.1842	0.1850
Greek Drachma*	0.3750	0.3765
Cypriot Pound	1.5000	1.5170

* Per 100

CAE Indices for Annual Financial Market				
Index	14/12/91	Close	15/12/91	Close
All-Share	126.56	129.44		
Banking Sector	106.76	108.56		
Insurance Sector	128.07	127.97		
Industry Sector	161.13	160.66		
Services Sector	145.39	142.49		

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.8222/32	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1415/20	Canadian dollar	
	1.5810/20	Deutschmarks	
	1.7820/30	Dutch guilders	
	1.3967/77	Swiss francs	
	32.51/55	Belgian francs	
	5.3925/75	French francs	
	1192/1193	Italian lire	
	128.55/65	Japanese yen	
	5.7700/50	Swedish krona	
	6.2150/2200	Norwegian krona	
	6.1500/50	Danish krona	
One ounce of gold	360.00/360.50	U.S. dollars	

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CONCORD	
Dunia & Saeed Saleh In	
TEA SELLER (Arabic)	

Cinema	Tel: 675571
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	
Haret Abu Awwad Family will resume its performances of	
ZAMAN AL SHAKLBEH "SOMERSALT TIME"	

on Thursday Jan. 2, 1992

Advance reservation needed

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Yen seems on road for a readjustment

Tokyo steers economy for balanced growth through a gradual slowdown

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economy is slowing, but this is part of a move toward more balanced growth after a period of excessively high growth, Japan's central bank chief said Monday. "It is the process of the economy being adjusted or being normalised ... and is desirable," Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno told Reuters in an interview.

"The economy still retains its underlying strength," he said. Asked about the central bank's monetary policy management, Mr. Mieno said: "We will watch various conditions at home and abroad, while monitoring effects of past easing measures."

Last July, the BOJ moved to reverse its tight monetary stance by cutting its discount rate by 0.5 percentage points to 5.5 per cent. In November the rate, the fee the central bank charges on its loans to commercial banks, was trimmed again, to five per cent.

He said Tokyo must make a greater effort to stabilise the strong yen to help cut its huge trade surplus.

"The yen rate should reflect fundamentals. Japan needs to make a greater effort to stabilise the yen in the direction of a firm tone," he said.

Mr. Mieno made the remarks at a time when Japan's economy, which has achieved an annual growth rate of around five per cent over the past four years, is losing steam, while its trade surplus is again beginning to surge.

Growth in gross national product (GNP), the broadest gauge of the economy's health, slowed to an annualised rate of 1.6 per cent in the July-September quarter from a 2.8 per cent gain in the previous three months.

Japan's trade surplus in November nearly tripled to \$6.56 billion from \$2.24 billion in the same month a year ago.

Mr. Mieno said Japan's economy was expected to keep slowing for the time being, but was unlikely to suffer a major downturn.

Indebted developing countries likely to live with high real interest rates for a long time

Latin America, have been able to take advantage of the so-called Brady initiative to reduce their foreign debt.

"Those that have come to the table have had a very good time," World Bank chief economist Lawrence Summers told a news conference. "The problem is that so far it hasn't been a very large party."

The initiative, unveiled some three years ago by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, only applies to debt owed to international creditors, not to rich nation governments. Poorer countries, particularly those in Africa, owe most of their money to governments, not to banks.

Although the United States backs the plan in principle, it has been hamstrung from joining in by legislative guidelines set down to contain its burgeoning budget deficit.

Washington though was able to lead the drive this year to halve the official debt of two lower middle-income countries, Egypt and Poland, rewarding one for its cooperation in the Gulf war and the other for its embrace of democracy.

The World Bank urged that other such countries with big official debts, including Morocco, Nicaragua and the Philippines, be given a chance to obtain comparable relief.

It said that the near-term outlook for developing countries hinges largely on the economic performance of the industrial world next year.

"The consensus view is that major economies ... will show a weak recovery in output in 1992," the bank said. "But the preponderance of the risk now appears to be on the downside."

It said that all indebted developing countries will probably have to live with high real interest rates in the coming decade because of competing demands for funds from the Gulf, the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, including the former East Germany.

It estimated that the extra debt from those areas will amount to about \$100 billion per year. All other things being equal, that means that real international interest rates after taking account of inflation will need to be about one percentage point higher than otherwise.

But the World Bank said it does not expect those extra demands to crowd out developing countries and prevent them from raising funds, unless they are barely creditworthy.

Mr. Summers said the problem was not so much the overall quantity of money available for investment in the 1990s, but its allocation.

Too much money during the 1980s was used to build office buildings in the world's richest nations, and not enough went to the construction of factories in developing countries where the population is growing the fastest, he said.

period was about 15 weeks, Mr. Takumori said.

Following five rate increases between May 1989 and August 1990, the central bank lowered the discount rate to 5.5 per

Yeltsin rules out nuclear strike without commonwealth approval

MOSCOW (R) — Russian leader Boris Yeltsin said Monday that heads of member-states of a new commonwealth, formed to replace the Soviet Union, would have to be consulted before any Soviet nuclear weapons could be fired.

He also told reporters after four hours of talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that there would be "strict export control" over Soviet nuclear technology.

Mr. Baker, who is concerned at the danger of nuclear conflict as the Soviet Union breaks up, said that during the talks Mr. Yeltsin and his team provided "quite a bit of specific detail involving questions of nuclear safety and control."

Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov took part in the talks on Mr. Yeltsin's Russian republican team in a sign of the diminishing influence of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Asked about the question of control of the nuclear weapons, which is a major concern of the West, Mr. Yeltsin said:

"In an emergency there will be discussions among the heads of state, with the supreme commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and the final decision to launch these forces or to use them may be taken only after these consultations."

Mr. Gorbachev is formally commander-in-chief of the Soviet Armed Forces, though senior Russian officials have called on him to pass on his authority "in a civilised manner."

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk last week proposed a "three-button" system under which all three founders of the Commonwealth of independent states — Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia — would have to press a button simultaneously to

launch nuclear weapons.

Foreign intelligence service chief Yevgeny Primakov subsequently dismissed the idea as "nonsense," saying it could never work.

Mr. Yeltsin, seeking to calm Western fears, reiterated that the commonwealth members would carry out their pledge to form a joint command over the Soviet Armed Forces, with their 30,000 nuclear weapons.

"We plan to sign a treaty, a defensive alliance that would provide for a supreme joint command of the armed forces on the basis of the forces of the Ministry of Defence," he said.

"We also further agree to jointly exercise control over all existing nuclear installations with a view to achieving maximum safety," Mr. Yeltsin said.

He said the four republics where nuclear weapons were deployed — the three commonwealth founders plus Kazakhstan — would join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

"Three of them will eventually become non-nuclear states, with the exception for the time being of Russia," he said.

He said there was agreement that arms reductions under existing treaties would proceed with U.S. help.

Mr. Yeltsin also raised with Mr. Baker the question of U.S. independence of Russia as an independent state as well as the idea of Russia taking over the Soviet Union's seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Baker was later meeting Mr. Gorbachev, whose attempts to preserve the Soviet Union have looked increasingly hopeless since the new commonwealth was announced on Dec. 8.

Mr. Gorbachev has suggested that aspects of the new grouping

could be blended with a new union treaty, combining considerable republican autonomy with a continuing central authority.

Republican leaders have rejected the idea.

Mr. Yeltsin's status as the new number one in Moscow was underlined by the fact that he met Mr. Baker before Mr. Gorbachev and by his welcoming the U.S. delegation in St. Catherine's Hall in the Kremlin, traditionally the preserve of Soviet leaders.

Parliament in the southern Republic of Kazakhstan began debating a declaration of independence Monday, a spokesman for its press office said by telephone from Almaty.

A positive vote would leave Mr. Yeltsin's Russia as the only one of the 12 Soviet republics not to declare independence since the August's failed hardline coup in Moscow.

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has been a strong supporter of Mr. Gorbachev's attempts to hold the crumbling superpower together. But be and the leaders of the four Central Asian republics agreed in principle Friday to join the new commonwealth.

Mr. Yeltsin is on the verge of losing a major political ally in his own back yard as he works to raise the new commonwealth of independent states from the ruins of the old Soviet Union.

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov, one of the country's leading reformers and a Yeltsin ally, said the late Sunday that he would resign because of disputes over economic reforms with Mr. Yeltsin's Russian government and the city council.

Mr. Popov told reporters Monday he would quit "by the end of the year." A Popov spokesman said it is not clear whether City Council Chairman Yuri Luzhkov,

second in line to the mayor, would succeed Popov, but city laws say new elections must be held in three months.

Asked whether he would continue to support Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Popov said "that's not an easy question" and refused further comment. Mr. Popov's departure could trigger more defections from the ranks of those who have supported Mr. Yeltsin since his 1989 political comeback and backed him during the failed August hardline coup.

The importance of Mr. Popov's decision was underscored when the announcement topped Soviet and Russian newscasts late Sunday, overshadowing the arrival of Mr. Baker.

Mr. Popov, explaining his decision to quit the post to which he was popularly elected in June, told Russian Television: "I can't work under conditions when I am unable to put into effect what I promised my electorate."

Mr. Popov made the announcement during a meeting of the Democratic Reform Movement, a coalition founded this year to oppose the now-discredited Communist Party. Radio Moscow quoted Mr. Popov as saying city and Russian legislators "are opposed to the privatisation of trade and housing" in Moscow.

But many of Moscow's new class of free marketeers level similar criticisms at Mr. Popov, saying he is still controlling some processes and complicating privatisation of shops and housing.

Others have scored him many decrees, dubbing him "the democratic dictator."

Rising crime as well as controversial appointments to the higher ranks of the city police department also have dogged Mr. Popov since he became mayor of this city of 9 million.

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